Canada

CCGS MARTHA L. BLACK - CLASS 1100 VESSEL

The Canadian Coast Guard ships MARTHA L. BLACK and GEORGE R. PEARKES are the newest additions to the west coast fleet. The 40 crew members aboard each of these vessels maintain and monitor navigation aids in British Columbia and Arctic waters, and provide icebreaker support to marine commerce in the Western Arctic. The 83-metre long vessels are Arctic Class II icebreakers designed to continuously break through two feet of ice. CCGS MARTHA L. BLACK and CCGS GEORGE R. PEARKES will alternate on an annual Arctic patrol from July to October with the MARTHA L. BLACK's maiden Arctic voyage beginning the first week of July 1986. While in the Arctic, these vessels will provide icebreaking and escort services and clear channels through the ice for all commercial, passenger and resupply vessels. A Coast Guard helicopter is carried on board to assist in ice reconnaissance, delivery of essential supplies to isolated communities, and the servicing of vital navigational aids.

The MARTHA L. BLACK is assigned to the Prince Rupert District which extends from the U.S. border in the north to Cape Caution in the south, and the GEORGE R. PEARKES is assigned to the Victoria District which extends from Cape Caution in the north to the U.S. border in the south. The GEORGE R. PEARKES will also cover off the entire Canadian west coast when the MARTHA L. BLACK is in the Arctic. Each vessel may be at sea for over a month at a time, and can carry provisions for 120 days, with fuel for 6500 nautical miles.

Both vessels service navigational buoys, and maintain shore aids such as beacons and fog signals and supply the 40 manned lighthouses throughout the coastal region with fuel, construction materials and groceries. As well, they may be called upon for search and rescue work.

These vessels have diesel electric propulsion. Three 16 cylinder Bombardier (Alco) engines of 2250 kw each, power 600 volt A.C. generators feeding a main bus bar. Voltage is then transferred up to 1900 volts A.C. for the two propulsion motors, with speed control through cyclo-converters. Other transformers convert the voltage down to the various requirements for auxiliary machinery and the ship's services. There is also a Caterpillar 3508 500 kW harbour generator feeding the main bus bar and a Caterpillar 3306 100 kW emergency generator.

The ships each have a crane for buoy work, which is stepped aft to accommodate helicopter slinging from the foredeck. The safe working load of the crane is 28 tonnes and a system of 5 winches and associated rigging is used for topping and slewing the boom and operating the main hoist and two auxiliary hoists.

CCGS MARTHA L. BLACK is named after Martha L. Black who was the second woman M.P. in Canada, elected in 1935 shortly before her 70th birthday. Mrs. Black and her husband George represented the Yukon in Parliament for 29 years. In 1946 she was recognized for her contribution to public life by being made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

CCGS GEORGE R. PEARKES was named after Major-General George R. Pearkes, a member of Parliament for Nanaimo and Esquimalt-Saanich and defense minister in 1957. He was a much-decorated hero of both world wars, and continued his service to his country with his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia from 1960 to 1968.

In their dual roles as aids tenders/medium icebreakers, CCGS MARTHA L. BLACK and CCGS GEORGE R. PEARKES are a vital part of the Canadian Coast Guard's west coast operations.

CCG Western Region

Aids to Navigation

NAME	TYPE	BASE
MARTHA L. BLACK	aids tender/ icebreaker	Prince Rupert
GEORGE R. PEARKES	aids tender/ icebreaker	Victoria
SIR JAMES DOUGLAS	aids tender	Victoria
MISKANAW	aids tender	Fort McMurray
DUMIT	aids tender	Hay River
TEMBAH	aids tender	Hay River
ECKALOO	aids tender	Hay River
NAHIDIK	aids tender	Hay River
CLOO-STUNG	aids tender	Prince Rupert
SIKORSKY S61 HELICOPTER	aids servicing/ supply unit	Prince Rupert
HELICOPTERS (4)	aids servicing	Victoria